

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 NEA-14 AF-10 IO-14 SAM-01

OMB-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /148 W

----- 120828

O R 151320Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0014

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

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AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN
CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2956

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PO
SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF NEW PRIME MINISTER

REF: LISBON 2955

1. OUR INITIAL TENETAIVE ASSESSMENT IS THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE AND PROBABLY AN EXAGGERATION TO INTERPRET GONCALVES' APPOINTMENT AS A TURN TO LEFT. WE BELIEVE CHARACTERIZATION OF HIM AS "LEFTIST" MUST BE CONSIDERED HIGHLY RELATIVE TERM. HIS APPOINTMENT MAY INDEED BE CONSIDERED MFA "VICTORY" AND SPINOLA "SETBACK" IN CONTEXT OF SPINOLA'S DESIRE RETURN MFA TO BARRACKS AND SEEK POPULAR MANDATE FOR HIMSELF. IT MUST ALSO BE LOOKED UPON AS ENHANCEMENT OF MFA SHARE OF POWER VIS-A-VIS SPINOLA AND JUNTA.

2. AS POSSESSOR OF MFA "LEGITIMACY" GONCALVES WILL PRESUMABLY HAVE LESS DIFFICULTY THAN PALMA CARLOS IN SECURING CABINET CONSENSUS, AND, HAVING FULL TRUST OF MFA, HIS CABINET MAY HAVE LESS DIFFICULTY WITH MFA INTERFERENCE N DAY-TO-DAY DECISIONS. BY APPOINTING GONCALVES, SPINOLA HAS BOTH CAPITULATED TO MFA AND PUSHED THEM INTO POSITION WHERE THEY MUST ACT THEMSELVES RATHER THAN CRITICIZE ACTS OF OTHERS. AS THEY PROCEED, THEY ARE LIKELY TO FIND IT EASIER TO CARRY OUT A REVOLT AND DRAFT A PROGRAM FOR REFORM THAN TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A PROGRAM. INEVITABLY, THE MFA WILL LOSE SOME OF ITS PURITY AND WILL HAVE TO STEP ON SOME TOES, BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO KNOW WHOSE SCOTT

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Message Attributes

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